MASON'S

MONTHLY

COIN AND STAMP

COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5. FEBRUARY, 1871. No. 2.

PUBLISHED AT $1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

Bavis & Pennypacker. Prs., 23 S. Tenth St.

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WHAT CONSTITUTES A SET OF UNITED STATES CENTS.

BY T. W. T.

Conciseness in historical facts in any literary or scientific department is an object to be found only by a slow and tedious progress. Close observation, aided by a discriminating judgment, will enable an individual, if he possesses a cultivated as well as natural interest in his subject matter, to search out nearly all the hidden mysteries and minor details to a degree of exactness at once astonishing and incomprehensible to the indifferent spectator. Subjects, too, are often invested with peculiar intricacies which, to the superficial observer, seem but ramifications short, smooth, plain and straight.

Numismatology seems predestined to be a science dull, from its very apparent monotony, to the unpracticed, unskilled, nay astute person; a science in all its appearances to the uninitiated as easily acquired as any art; but a trial often imposes doubts in the result of the investigation.

The copper coinage of the United States furnishes a field at once fertile to the inquiring mind and it is the purpose of the writer—who cannot claim to be even an *amateur* in the science—to stop these erratic speculations and come, at once, to the projected plan of describing what he has found among the "coppers," beginning with the "*fifties.*"

There are three distinct types of the United States cents of 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854 and 1855 straight date, each kind having a duplicate in each of the other dates mentioned. The marked peculiarities in these three varieties may best be brought to notice by carefully observing the figure "8" and its surroundings. It will be readily perceived that an ornamental *curl* (begging pardon for not knowing technicalities) nearly touches this figure (8): first—middle of the top part; second—back of the top part; third—between the other two. Not to suppose, much less promulgate, such a theory, it nevertheless might appear that one die only was used in striking the coins of these dates, having the date inserted by slotting, and bolstering or filling the blank not necessarily employed for the date. By continued strikes the date piece became loose, and new filling would be

required to tightly wedge it in place; hence it would unavoidably become moved from its former position.

We now come to the 1855's slanting date, of which there are two types; the last "5" in one kind nearly touches a star, and the point of that figure points directly towards that star; but, considerably different from this description is the other variety.

Of the 1856, there appear to be three varieties—one close date and two wide (between the "5" and "6.") The one denominated *close* is analagous to one of the before described varieties. In the wide, the upper part of the "6" is nearer a star and nearer a *curl* in one than in the other type; also, a curl touches the "8" in one wide date, but not so in the other.

There are found in the 1857's two varieties which are already known—the large date and the small.

In concluding this division of the subject, it may as well be stated that some of the foregoing described varieties are not so frequently found as others, showing that a few, comparatively, were struck.

SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

NEW SERIES. NO. 2.

"Coincidences."

The coin dealer is often put to his wit's ends to obtain a coin for some special order, and it is not always the want of a rare piece. We remember on one occasion we had a mail order to fill for United States silver coins, and two very common pieces, the 1796 and 1797 dollars were wanting. We searched among the brokers, in vain, for these two dates and for one week used every exertion to obtain them from collectors. After repeated enquiries, searches and efforts of various kinds we succumbed to this ordinary difficulty and proceeded to write to our correspondent, explaining the matter and enclosing the money received for the pieces. As we were superscribing the envelope, a gentleman entered with a small bag of silver, which we purchased and found, to our great joy, among the lot the two dollars we were in search of. It was amusing to notice, for a week subsequent to this coincidence, how numerous the silver dollars of 1796 and 1797 had become. Brokers, collectors and others were daily offering them for sale. At another time our stock of 1856 nickel cents had given out, and, in fact, it seemed that every other dealer had parted with these little, but desirable, coins at the same time, for, try as we would, none could be had. In this emergency we concluded to return the money to our patron, when a collector entered and surprised us by remarking that he had taken an 1856 nickel in his store, in circulation, and thought it somewhat remarkable. We purchased the nickel, supplied a good patron by satisfactorily filling his order, and noted this incident as another occurrence worthy of recording among the coincidences of a coin dealer.

(*To be continued.*)

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

(*Concluded.*)

THE COMMONWEALTH, 1849.

Of this money were coined crowns, half crowns, shillings, sixpences, half groats, pennies and half pennies. The first four have on the obverse a Norman shield charged with the cross of St. George, the whole encircled with two laurel branches. Legend, THE COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND. The reverse has two shields conjoined; one with the same cross, the other charged with a harp for Ireland, and the value above in numerals. The legend GOD WITH US. The others have no legends, but may be known by the numerals VI. II. I., except the half penny, which has none. All these pieces are common, save those with the dates 1658, 1660.

OLIVER CROMWELL, 1656.

The coins of Oliver were the production of the inimitable Simon, whose works are to this day admired and prized. Some have doubted whether they ever were in circulation, but it is now pretty generally allowed that they were. The denominations are the crown, half crown, shilling, and sixpence. They are all very rare, especially the latter. Their obverse and reverse are all similar; namely, the head of the Protector laureated, with his name and style; reverse, the arms of England surcharged with his paternal coat, a regal crown above, and around the whole the legend, PAX. QVÆRITVR. BELLO., with the date.

CHARLES II, 1660.

Hammered Money.—Of this, the second coinage, with the value and without the inner circle next the legend, are the scarcest. The half crowns of this description are very rare. Some have the numerals XXX. behind the head. The other pieces are common.

Milled Money.—The milled money of this king is of a very different style, and has the head laureated. All the pieces of this coinage are common.

To the eternal disgrace of Charles, he encouraged an artist whom he had brought over from Antwerp, and gave the preference to his works before those of Simon, who produced in the year 1663, a pattern crown of most extraordinary workmanship, *on the edge of which* was the following petition, in two lines:

"THOMAS SIMON *most humbly prays your* MAJESTY *to compare this his tryal-piece with the Dutch, and if more truly drawn and embossed, more gracefully ordered, and more accurately engraven, to relieve him.*"

To any one but the heartless profligate whose portrait occupied the obverse of the medal, this appeal would have been irresistable, but it does not appear that the unfortunate artist was relieved. He pro-

bably died of grief and disappointment at the unjust preference shown to his rival.

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx. Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

(*Continued.*)

The Carnelian is a species of the calcedony, which is itself a subspecies of that universal mineral, the quartz. To the ancients it was known as the "sarda," for which name two reasons have been assigned, which we will give when we speak of the Sardonyx. The moderns have variously entitled it Carnelian and Cornelian—in either case from its red color, corresponding to the color of the flesh, "caro," and the heart, "cor."

The finest of these stones come from Siberia, Arabia, India, Surinam and Tyrol, though they occur in various other places in both the old and new worlds. It is found in masses or pebbles; is semi-transparent and translucent; and (what somewhat impeaches its name) is, in its varieties, not only blood-red, but yellow and yellow-brown. The jewelers prefer the dark-red and yellow-tinted.

It is used for seals, rings, watch keys, etc. Its color is said to be improved by calcination, and it is also said that the ancients boiled it in honey to heighten its color. On account of its hardness, it is very useful for seal engraving.

In regard to this stone, we close by citing an old superstition referred to by Nichols: "It causeth him that weareth it to be of a chearful heart, free from fear and nobly audacious, and that it is a good protection for him against witchcrafts and fascinations, and putrefactions of humors."

From the best information we can obtain, Carbuncle was the ancient name for the now entitled in geological treatises *spinelle*, which latter, according to Hauy, is the true Ruby. As we have already described the Ruby, we need not, of course, repeat ourselves, but consider that our list of precious stones, which made the Carbuncle and the Ruby two different gems, was erroneous.

Garnets, or Granats, according to quaint old Nicols, were well known to the ancients, who considered them as a species of Carbuncles, otherwise of Rubies. They are pellucid, crystallized chiefly in dodecahedral forms, imperfectly lamellar in structure, more or less conchoidal in fracture, and some suppose they take their names from being found chiefly in grains.

The Garnet is of three principal species:

1. The Syrian, of a deep rose color, "like unto the flowers of pomegranates," says Nicols. "Boetius," continues he, "saith that it looketh like a flame of fire, etc."

2. The Bohemian or Ceylonese, wine-red or nearly orange-yellow.
3. The Vermeille, deeply tinged with orange-yellow.

The red Garnet is found in many species of rocks, in loose crystals, in small boulders, in grains and in alluvial earth. It occurs in many European countries and in various parts of United States.

The grains collected by digging and washing alluvion are preferred by lapidaries to all others.

The chemical constituents of this gem are silica, alumina and the protoxides of iron and manganese.

Garnets are much used in jewelry, being cut into breastpins, earrings and necklaces, and out of the larger ones snuff boxes are sometimes made.

Their value is measured by their size, purity and color. A Syrian Garnet, eight and a half lines long and six and a half broad, was sold at the auction of the Marquis de Dree for 3550 francs, and a red Ceylonese Garnet, eleven lines long and seven broad, was sold for 1003 francs, They can be very well imitated by pastes.

(*To be continued.*)

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

CANADA.

1. S. Obv.—Head of Victoria, to left, laureate. "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA, CANADA." Rev.—Within two maple branches, "20 CENTS 1858," in three lines, surmounted by a crown. Milled edge.

2. S. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—do. do. "10 CENTS." Milled edge.

3. S. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—do. do. "5 CENTS." Milled edge.

There are also specimens of these coins with plain edge, which are very rare.

4. C. Obv.—A river god, with trident in left hand, leans his right hand on an urn from which water flows. On the exergual line "PONTHON;" in exergue, "1794." Legend on a raised border. "FERTILITATEM DIVITASQUE CIRCUMFEREMUS." Rev.—"COPPER COMPANY OF UPPER CANADA ONE HALF PENNY."

5. C. Obv.—Coarsely executed head, to right. "VEXATOR CANADIN SIS." Rev.—Rude figure of woman dancing. "RENUNTER VISCAPE 1811."

6. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. "VEXATOR CANADENSIS." Rev.—Same as No. 5.

7. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. "VEXATOR CANADENSIS 1811." Rev.—Same as No. 5. "RENUNILIUS VISCAPE."

There are two other varieties of this coin, the difference consisting in the mode of spelling or in punctuation.

8. C. Obv.—Sloop under sail, to right. "HALF PENNY TOKEN

UPPER CANADA." Rev.—An Indian, as in No. 9 of Nova Scotia Coins. In exergue, "1815., "COMMERCIAL CHANGE."

9. C. Obv.—Ship under sail, to right. "SUCCESS TO THE COMMERCE OF UPPR AND LOWR CANADA." Rev.—"SUCCESS TO COMMERCE, AND PEACE TO THE WORLD 1816."

10. C. Obv.—Same as No. 9. Rev.—"SIR ISAAC BROCK, BART., THE HERO OF UPPER CANADA WHO FELL AT THE GLORIOUS BATTLE OF QUEENSTOWN HEIGHTS ON THE 13TH OCTR 1812." Milled edge.

11. C. Obv.—Two angels holding a wreath over an urn placed on a pedestal, inscribed, "FELL OCT. 13, 1812." "SIR ISAAC BROCK, THE HERO OF UPR CANADA." Rev.—Same as No. 9.

The design on the obverse of this coin was taken from the original monument, erected in memory of Sir Isaac Brock, on the Queenstown Heights. It was maliciously blown up by a person named Lett, who was afterwards imprisoned for robbery in the United States. It has been replaced by a handsome monument, by the loyal subjects of Her Majesty in Upper Canada (now Ontario).

12. C. Obv.—Bust of Duke of Wellington, to left, laureated. Within a circle, "HALF PENNY TOKEN 1816." Rev.—Ship under sail, to right Within circle, "MONTREAL."

13. C. Obv.—Bust of George IV, to right, laureated and draped. "TOKEN 1820." Rev.—A beaver. "NORTH WEST COMPANY." Engrailed edge. This coin is exceedingly rare, no specimen known to be in Canada.

14. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Bowsprit of sloop extends over the last letter in the word Canada. Rev.—An anvil; above it two spades crossed, below 1820. Edge milled.

15. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Bowsprit of sloop extends between the letters "D" and "A" in Canada. Rev.—Same as No. 14.

(*To be continued.*)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

(*Continued.*)

ASIA.

MYTELENE.

Laureated head of Apolllo, to the right.

Rev.—MYTI, a lyre in an indented square.—AR.

EPHEUS.

EO, a bee.

Rev.—EOEΣ I, a stag before a palm tree, or EO, a fly within a laurel garland.

Some have a stag on reverse.

SIGEUM.

Head of Minerva, full faced.

Rev.—MIΓ, an owl, to the right.—Æ.

COLOPHON (IONA).

Laureated head of Apollo, to the right.

Rev.—KOA, a horseman, in the field; a lyre, underneath NEΠΓΤΟΣ.—Æ.

ERYTHRÆ.

Head of Young Hercules with the lion's skin.

Rev.—AEΗ ANΛPO, a bow, club and quiver.

MILENIS.

Laureated head of Apollo, to the left.

Rev.—OEOΛOTHΣ, a lion regardant, to the left; in the field, a star and a monogram.

PRIENE.

Head of Pallas, to the right; below, a star.

Rev.—IIPIHNEΛN, a tripod.—Æ.

SMYRNA.

A youthful head, laureated, within a garland of laurel.

Rev.—IMYPNAIΛN, a figure of Homer seated.—Æ.

CHIOS INSULA.

A sphinx, to the left.

Rev.—An indented square.—AR.

Some have ZHNIΣ XIOΣ.

SAMOS INSULA.

The most common obverses are—a horseman, a female head, the head of a lion and sometimes the head of Juno. Reverses—a bull, a peacock and full-faced head of a lion. They generally bear the name ΣAMIΛN on them.

(*To be continued.*)

SOMERS ISLAND MONEY.

A remarkable Medal, struck for the use of the Sommer Island, said to be a unique.

SIR—The following seems to be the explication of the medal you did me favor to show me, which illustrated a very interesting piece of history.

In the year 1609, a very considerable company was formed in England, consisting of most of the principal nobility, gentry and trading towns and corporations, to the number of a thousand persons and upwards, who had a grant of all the Southern parts of North America, by the name of Virginia.

That same George Somers was appointed Governor of this colony; and he, with Sir Thomas Gates, were sent to establish it: but in their passage they happened to be cast away on the islands of Bermudas. Sir George Somers himself first discovered them, and steered the ship to them, where she ran between two rocks, and lay as in a dock.

Upon those islands they found such a number of wild hogs that

they killed two and thirty immediately, and, after subsisting upon them for nine months, they victualled a vessel with them, with which they got safe to Virginia.

Upon their arrival at Virginia they found the colony in such want of provisions that Sir George Somers returned to those islands for a supply of the hogs: here he died, and was buried, at a place afterwards called George Town.

In consequence of this discovery, those islands, and all others lying within three hundred leagues of the main land of North America, were granted to the foresaid company, by charter, bearing date March 12, 1611-12.

The company sold those islands to some of their own members, who were incorporated by Royal Charter, and had a grant to those islands, by the name of *Somer Islands*, others read *Sommer's Islands;* and that year, 1612, they settled a colony upon them, which has ever since subsisted.

It seems to have been upon this occasion that the medal was struck, as it represents most of events here mentioned.

We may read the inscription, *Somer Islands*, C. R. Charter Regia; and not *Carolo Rege*, as it was before the reign of that king.

I am with all respect and esteem,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN MITCHELL.

LONDON, Aug. 28, 1764.

The figures XII. over the hog, it is unknown what they mean

[It is generally conceded by numismatists to mean "shilling," as there is extant a silver sixpence of the Somer Islands, and the copper piece is undoubtedly a trial piece.—Ed.]

THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

From time to time fabulous stories have been afloat in Washington concerning the secrets of the United States Treasury vaults. It has been whispered by certain snowy-locked clerks who have been noted for centuries for strictest veracity, that hidden away in the dust and darkness of a certain vault might be found jewels that would vie with or possibly eclipse those found in the diamond cave by "Sinbad the Sailor." Hidden away in wooden boxes, it has been said that pearls as large as pigeons' eggs have nestled, their waxen beauty undisturbed by human eyes, whilst diamonds, both great and small, have winked and blinked without awakening a single sigh or shaft of feminine envy. In this same vault it has been known that parcel after parcel has reposed, whilst the hands that placed them there have crumbled into dust, and the mystery conected with them has been lost to this generation for ever.

In this connection it must be mentioned that this particular vault is the ninth in the Treasury calender, and it bears a resemblance to a bottomless pit, because heretofore anything under the

head of "special deposits" placed therein has never been heard of again

Amongst other bits of dainty information, it may be chronicled that the famous Field medal was placed here for safe keeping. Once, while Andy Johnson was President, an order came from "headquarters" to send the medal to the White House for inspection. The medal left the building, but was returned unknown to some of the lawful custodians of the place.

It has been the habit from time immemorial to never disturb the ashes of this sepulchre; hence the Field medal rested, but no great harm ensued. It is true, Andy's reputation for a brief time was under a passing cloud, and the hardest worked man in the country was accused of not reading the newspapers; and here the mischief ends, because the same plates were used to make a new medal, whilst the first one is worth its weight of precious metal, and only a small amount of human labor is lost

But in order to have a thorough understanding of this mysterious conglomeration of metal, mortar and stone, a description of the men who know the secrets of the locks should be forthcoming. Nine locks are concealed in the solid door, and each more desperate and secret than the other. Three men only in the country understand this wonderful combination, but as it is an established fact that no one ever dies or resigns in the Treasury, there need be no fear of a national calamity. United States Treasurer Spinner, Assistant Treasurer Tuttle and Cashier Wyman are men designated for the awful duty.

As it would stretch this article to a most unreasonable length to do anything like justice to the lives and duties of these faithful public men, it is only necessary to say that General Spinner is the most honest, bluff, inflexible servant that the people ever employed; that he gives out the same kind of metallic ring as one of his own gold coins when properly tested. Assistant Treasurer Tuttle bears the same relation to the Treasury Department that one Hoe's cylinder presses does to a newspaper office, and that he is a rare combination of faithfulness, strictest integrity, business talent and hard work is a fact never disputed in Washington. Cashier Wyman is the third man of the trio whose business it is to hold the awful keys, and he guards the Treasury vault as Cerberus is said to stand sentinel over a remote and spiritual region, though instead of three heads only one is visible. But this once seen by one who has a longing to ferret out secrets over which he has an indirect control, had better beware, else pain and sorrow are sure to follow.

Whilst Treasurer Spinner and his able assistants know the secrets of the locks, it is Cashier Wyman who daily performs the necessary duties connected with them, and he who goes through the awful door must pass his body, dead or alive. During the recent interesting investigation it gave every indication of life.

(*To be continued.*)

DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing Coins.

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

(*Continued.*)

Having premised these observations, the proper divisions of a grand and complete cabinet shall next be stated; which, in the part allotted to ancient coins, may run thus:

I. The coins of cities and of free states, in alphabetical order.

II. Kings in chronological series, both as to foundation of empire and seniority of reign.

III. Heroes, heroines, founders of empires and of cities.

IV. Other illustrious men and women.

V. Roman ases.

VI. Coins of families, commonly called consular.

VII. Imperial medallions.

VIII. Imperial gold.

IX. Imperial quinarii, of all metals.

X. Imperial silver.

XI. Imperial first brass.

XII. Second brass.

XIII. Third brass.

XIV. Colonial coins, which are all of brass.

XV. Greek cities under the emperors, of all metals and sizes. In a smaller cabinet they may be put with the Roman, according to their metal and size.

XVI. Egyptian coins struck under the Roman emperors, of all metals and sizes. They are mostly of a base metal, called by the French writers *potin*, being a kind of pot-metal, or brittle brass.

XVII. Contorniati, or ticket medals.

XVIII. Coins of Gothic princes, etc., inscribed with Roman characters.

XIX. Coins of Southern nations, using unknown alphabets; as the Persian, Punic, Etruscan, Spanish.

XX. Coins of Southern nations, using unknown characters; as the Runic and German.

(*To be continued.*)

BLACK SHEEP.

It has been universally conceded that coin collectors, as a class, are a most respectable body of citizens, not given to evil pranks; such as "Truthful James" descants upon; but there are exceptions, and it grieves us to mention the fact; but, as an ounce of public exposure is worth a ton of private murmurings, we feel it a duty to call the attention of our readers to a couple of villainous transactions, in the numismatic way, which have occurred at public coin sales. At the

sale of J. Colvin Randall's collection, at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s sales rooms, New York, a Maximillian twenty dollar gold piece was stolen, and a brass card similar to a United States double eagle was substituted. We have a vague suspicion that this act was committed by a small, well-dressed man, who is known among coin dealers in New York for similar petty but criminal numismatic offences. At the coin sale in Boston, December 21, some coin collector substituted an electrotype copy of the Washington "Manly Medal" and stole the original. We say *coin collector*, for the ample reason that a novice would hardly know the difference between the two pieces, and, for the *fact*, we have only to say we examined the original medal and purchased it at two dollars for a customer. Upon receiving the package, we discovered that a leaden copy had been substituted for the original medal. For the sake of numismatics, in behalf of the good name of collectors in New York and Boston, we solicit information concerning these rogueries. Who copied the Manly medal in Boston? To whom were copies sold? Who had an electrotype copy at the sale? A little investigation would clear this matter up, and if the parties are known we promise to publish the names of the miscreants, holding them up to public shame, thus ridding our fraternity of thieves.

REDEMPTION OF COINS.

U. S. SENATE, JAN. 18, 1871.

Mr. Fenton, from the Finance Committee, reported without amendmant a bill to provide for the redemption of copper and other token coin.

Mr. Fenton explained that the bill had received the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. It was passed.

It requires of the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem in lawful money all copper, nickel and other base metal coinage, when presented in sums of not less than twenty dollars.

[The above proceedings in the Senate Chamber, at Washington, will be hailed with joy by many persons who are anxious to be relieved of the old copper cents and half cents which for the last few years have been repudiated by the United States Government. How will this bill operate on the coin trade? Will the action of the government keep the old coppers in circulation, or will it result in the total disappearance of the old United States copper coinage as a circulating medium? It is our opinion that this action upon the part of Congress will add considerably to the fictitious value of the copper coinage.—Ed.]

THE PACKER COIN SALE.

By a communication, received from Mr. Cogan, just as we go to press, we learn that the Packer Coin Cabinet will be sold on the 27th of the present month. We regret that the catalogue is not at hand (January 30), for we should be pleased to refer to the more interesting coins in the collection.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The American Journal of Numismatics, Boston, for January, is received and presents a decided improvement on all previous issues of that journal. Over the initials S. A. G., we quote from the January number a very interesting article, entitled "Somers Island Money," page 71. We notice in the said article the word "Somers" printed in four ways, viz.: "Sommer," "Somer," "Somers', and "Sommers." We believe Somer Islands is the correct orthography.

The American Journal of Philately, of New York, for December, is as handsome as usual in typography, cuts and make up. The December number closes the third volume of this interesting stamp journal.

Our English cousins still keep up their monthly dish of good things in the philatelic way. *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Bath, for January, overflows with its usual supply of able and interesting articles. The January number of this journal opens the ninth volume, and if a forerunner of what is to come, this volume will be a chaming one for philatelists.

The Philatelist, Brighton, commences its fifth volume with the January number, now on our table. The contents include prize essays, puzzzles, undescribed emissions of postage stamps and notices of stamp publications.

The curious monthly collection of deformed English, or, in other words, *The Curiosity Cabinet*, New York, for January is before us, and, to tell the truth, it might as well be behind us, as far as deciphering the first page is concerned. After considerable labor, with the aid of a Chinese puzzle book and Comstock's Philosophy, we succeeded in getting a glimpse of the article on first page, the title being "OTOGRAF KOLEKTIN." This article commences as follows:

"A dinji lot ov old pepurz; hwot duz it min?" Now, if this is intended as a conundrum, we give it up; but we think there would, indeed, be a *dingy lot of old peepers*, if the eyes of our readers were riveted on the article quoted from. The second page is devoted to autographs and postage stamps in readable English. The third page is made up of advertising matter; while the fourth and last page has "Notices of the Press," etc.

We loaned this number of Brown's journal to an autograph collector, first marking the article on "OTOGRAF KOLEKTIN," and the next day it was returned with the following comments:

> "What is it all about? The types have been knocked into mince meat before proof, and it makes the worst kind of pi. I asked a German to read it. He said "Nix," and something, I think, about a vessel's "forestay." Then I experimented with a Russian, who significantly tapped his forehead and retired. Is it an organ of the poor fellows over the Schuylkill or the specimen advertisement of a type foundry?"

The only explanation we can afford our autographic friend is that the American Philological Society, of New York, term the lingo reformed orthography or *writing by sound*—not *sound writing*, we

opine. We ask friend Brown, the publisher, to print one column of first page in *deformed* (beg your pardon, brother, *reformed*) *English* and a corresponding column with a full explanation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HAMBURG, January 2, 1871.

SIRS.—Included I send you a two dollar note to enlist me as a subscriber to your Coin and Stamp Collectors' Monthly Magazine, for 1871, noping to get it more regular than by my bookseller. The last numbers I received six weeks after the proper date. In the beginning of the war it was twelve weeks after date, so that the large coin sale of Fewsmith was gone when I saw the first note in your paper that there would be a large sale. I asked several antiquarians in this city about American relics, curiosities, books, etc., but they had nothing in this line.

In the June number, Mr. Alfred Sandham says in his article about Canadian coins, "We have no account, until 1700, when the Copper Company issued a coin," etc. So it seems that he does not know the Canadian coin which was made expressly for *this* part of the French dominion, in the year 1658 and 1670 by the law from Louis XIV. The quarter and half dollar are in the collection of Paris, the copper coin from which the law speaks is not turned up to this time. I hope the next month will bring me in the possession of the half dollar piece. As soon as I am the owner, I will send you a pencil rubbing for Mr. Sandham.

Now, I wish you good success to your magazine in this year, and will look for it in the middle of every month. If a sale comes on do not forget to send a catalogue to your German subscriber.

G. L. ULEX.

[We insert our German correspondent's letter to call attention to the Canadian coin alluded to, and in reply would say to Mr. Ulex that a great difficulty exists in getting catalogues of coin sales out in time for the use of our foreign subscribers. It frequently happens that coin catalogues are out only two weeks in advance of sales, thus depriving numismatists in the Old World from competing with purchasers here. We hope, by calling attention to this matter, that parties making public coin sales will remedy the grievance by giving, at least, six weeks' notice before a sale is consummated. Ed.]

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

Cogan's sale of coins and medals came off on January 16, as announced. The attendance was small. The prices realized were considerably in excess of the preceding sales. When the character of the coins is considered, of which very few are rare, the result of this sale may be said to indicate an advance in United States coins, medals and pattern pieces. The reaction in regard to the latter pieces was marked, and the improvement in prices exhibits a strong desire on the part of numismatists to obtain them.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Subscribers.—We acknowledge receipt of additional subscriptions to Volume 5 from J. J. Mickley, E. Cogan (2 copies), G. L. Ulex (Germany), J. C. Randall, G. J. Chadd (Canada), C. R. Rutledge, G. S. Griffin, F. M. Tucker, M. D. Gilman, F. R. Smith, L. B. Smith, W. W. Stoddart, O. A. Jennison, N. S. C. Folwell, H. W. Lord, Major Nichols (club of 4), C. L. Ringeison, F. P. Randall, Miss E. J. Cottrell, M. Hirsch, T. Cleneay, T. R. Mason, A. Balmanno, Dr. J. F. Pratt, W. J. Jenks, Dr. E. Maris, R. C. Davis, H. F. Adwers, J. E. Hallet, G. W. Farrier, F. J. Merryman, R. S. Hulburt, W. P. Coolbaugh, J. Haussler, D. Lee, J. M. Dresser, William Clogston (club of 7), United States Mint, W. H. Green, J. L. Wise, R. Colburn, J. E. Bidwell, Col. M. I. Cohen, T. G. Field, W. H. Potter.

Wm. C., Springfield, Mass.—We send thanks to all the members of the club, and feel under obligations for your kindness in forming the same. We have prepared a neat title page to Volumes 2, 3 and 4, which can be separated from this number and carefully pasted in the bound volumes.

R. S. Davis.—Consult Cavedoni for history of the Jewish coinage; also, De Saulcy. The latter does not include the Roman series struck after the capture of Jerusalem, nor the coins issued by the Tetrarchs. Levy's work is worthy of examination, but has the same faults as De Saulcy's. The leather money of Edward I bore his name, stamp and profile.

H. N. W.—Catalogues mailed. About ten dollars would be a fair bid for each of the aluminum pieces, the dollar and double eagle excepted. The two cent piece, in aluminum, in Cogan's sale, January 16, brought $7. Your bid was $6. Too busy to write by mail an answer to all your queries.

T. T. B.—We make no charge for inserting your "want." The magazine and $1 received, and account square.

W. P. C, Oshkosh.—The rubbing you send represents an ordinary variety of the 1793 cents. Call when in the city.

COIN SALE IN NEW YORK.

There will be a two days' coin sale, at the rooms of Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., Astor Place, New York, on the 16th and 17th of the present month, commencing each day at 5 P. M. This sale consists of a combination of several collections made up in this city, and contains quite a respectable show of rare and valuable pieces, among which are many of the rare dates of United States half cents in proof condition, pattern pieces, rare foreign and American medals, colonials, numismatic works, etc. The aluminum pieces of 1868 form a complete set, which should be purchased by the government, as our mint is not in possession of a similar series. It seems a pity to break up and scatter the aluminum set by auction, as it will be a lifetime of labor to get together a complete set of United States coinage struck in this metal. We have sent catalogues to all our patrons.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

FRENCH REPUBLIC.—The resuscitated types of the old republic are now in use in France. The complete list now reads as follows:

1 centime, olive on green, unperforated.
2 " brown on straw, "
4 " gray on white, "
10 " bistre, perforated and unperforated, several shades.
20 " blue, " " "
80 " bright carmine, unperforated.

No doubt to these will soon be joined stamps of 30 and 40 centimes. The former value must be in particular request, as it represents the rate for letters for this country, which has at present to be formed with at least two stamps. We may also look forward to the early appearance of a 5 centimes of the republic, old type, as this value has never been issued with laureated head, and the old stock must be pretty nearly exhausted. At Paris; the authorities attach the 5 centimes of the empire to the little cards, which the Paris letter writers send to their correspondents in the country. The stamp represents the cost of the card, and does not prepay the reply which is to be written on it. These cards form an interesting item among the special means of communication with Paris resorted to under present circumstances. They are sold only in Paris; the purchaser, in the letter he writes, puts four questions to his correspondent in the country, which should be so framed as to admit of an absolute negative or affirmative answer being given to each. In his letter he inserts the card, and the receiver fills in, on ruled spaces provided for the purpose, the name of the district in which he resides, the initials of his surname, the name and address of his friend in Paris, and his replies to the four questions addressed to him, which replies must be confined to a simple yes or no. The card thus filled in must be taken to a post-office, and one franc must be paid by the sender as postage thereof; the postmaster, to whom it is confided, remits it in turn to the delegate of the postmaster-general at Clermont Ferrand (or elsewhere), and this latter transmits the laconic communication it contains by carrier pigeon to Paris.

SPAIN.—The Congress stamps promise to become a numerous family. Only eight months since, a new die was prepared, and now behold another, which differs hardly at all from its predecessor. The word *Congreso* is transformed into *Congresso* on the last comer, for some abstruse reason, no doubt, and that is about all the difference which exists between the two stamps.

SPANISH COLONIES.—A new type is out for these colonies, and it will at once be seen that Senor Eugenie Julia, the engraver (whose initials may be discovered in the lower right corner of the stamp), has

been taking a leaf out of Messrs. Perkins & Bacon's book. The idea of a seated figure has evidently been borrowed from the Barbadoes and Trinidad stamps, though what or whom the said figure is intended to represent is fair ground for conjecture—possibly Commerce, possibly Liberty, possibly regenerated Spain holding out the olive branch of peace to all the world. It will be noticed that the *pesta* has become the unit of currency, as in the old country, and also that the system of dating the emissions is maintained. We must defer giving a list of the colors and values until our next.

SWITZERLAND.—*Righi-Coulm.*—The well known Righi-Kaltbad stamp has now a companion in the shape of a Righi-Coulm stamp. It is printed in two colors; the oval is blue, and the ground and the flower is rose. The local stamps of the Rigi are, it appears, to be suppressed in the course of this year, as the railway up the mountain will probably be completed in the course of a few months.

HELVETIA.—We learn from our Brussels contemporary that the Helvetian republic now possesses field-post envelpes.

HOLLAND.—On the 1st December appeared a $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents adhesive, of of the arms type, colored violet.

BAVARIA.—The 1, 3 and 7 kreuzer are now perforated.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(*Continued.*)

Brandreth's Pills, rect., 1 cent, black.

Brown's Bronchial Troches, Boston, Mass., oblong, 1 cent, black; 2 cents, green; 4 cents, brown.

F. Brown's Essence of Jamaica Ginger, Philadelphia, rect., 2 cents, black.

Brown's Vermifuge Comfits, New York, oblong, 1 cent, black.

Dr. John Bull's Preparations, Louisville, Kentucky, rect., 1 cent, black; 4 cents, blue.

Byam, Carlton & Co., Boston, rect., 1 cent, black; oblong, 1 cent, black (5 varieties).

Barry's Tricopherous, New York, oblong, 2 cents, green.

Bauer & Beudel, New York Matches, rect., 1 cent, blue.

H. & M. Bentz, Matches, New York, rect., 1 cent, blue.

Bent & Lea's Eureka Parlor Matches, Wilmington, Delaware, rect., 1 cent, black.

W. T. Blow (Dr. T. L. Stephens), St. Louis, oblong, 1 cent, green.

Barber & Peckham, oblong, 3 cents, black.

Jos. Burnett & Co., Boston, rect., 4 cents, black; 6 cents, black.

WANTED.

Fifty cents each paid for January and June numbers, 1869, of this magazine; also, wanted, January and February numbers, 1870, for which twenty-five cents each will be paid. Address this office.

COIN SALE.

SEVERAL COLLECTIONS

OF

SILVER AND COPPER FOREIGN AND AMERICAN

COINS AND MEDALS:

INCLUDING A FEW RARE AND VALUABLE COINS IN PRIVATE HANDS.

TO BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC SALE ON

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AND 17, 1871,

AT THE

BOOK TRADE SALES ROOMS OF LEAVITT, STREBEIGH & CO.,

CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK.

SALE TO COMMENCE AT 5 P. M.

Coins on exhibition at 10 A. M. each day of sale. Bids will be received by

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

PROOF SETS FOR 1871.

Silver Dollar to One Cent Piece, inclusive; 10 pieces; brilliant proofs; per set, $4 50.

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Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1859,	$5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860,	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each,	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870,	4 50.

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PRICED CATALOGUES OF FEWSMITH CABINET.

Owing to the scarcity of the catalogues of the New York sale of October 4, 5, 6 and 7, our terms are as follows:

Priced Catalogue,	$5 00.
Unpriced Catalogue,	3 00.

Parties mailing their catalogues can have them priced for $2.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

☞ Coin Price Current, now ready, containing a list of coins on sale, with price of each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.